CHICAGO SUN-TIMES, Tues., July 7, 1964

Secret Service Agent's Bribe Trial Begins

The trial of a Secret Service agent on bribery charges began Monday in U.S. District Court with opening statements by the prosecution and defense.

The agent, who has been suspended, is Abraham W. Bolden, 29. He is charged with soliciting a $50,000 bribe in return for his revealing the government's investigative report on a bond-counterfeiting case.

Bolden was arrested May 18 and charged with soliciting the bribe from Joseph Spagnoli Jr., 31, one of nine individuals allegedly involved in an international counterfeiting ring.

In his opening statement, Asst. U.S. Atty. Richard T. Sikes said the evidence will show that Spagnoli called Maurice G. Martineau, assistant special agent in charge of the Chicago office of the Secret Service.

Sikes said that Spagnoli told of the offer, made through a third party. According to Sikes, Spagnoli told all because he though it was some sort of a government trap.

George W. Howard, Bolden's attorney, in his opening statement asked the jury of seven women and five men "to keep an open mind" about his client.

He said Bolden had worked his way through college and before joining the Secret Service he had worked for a detective agency and at one time was a state trooper.

Bolden has denied all the charges.